



Burrington Parish Council

Newsletter: April 2023

Dear Parishioners,

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Parish Room on Monday 17th April at 7.30 pm, there will be refreshments served from 7.00pm. This newsletter should give you an idea of the activities the Parish Council has undertaken during the past year. All our minutes of the meetings are available for anyone to read or view on the Parish Council web site and they are always displayed on the Parish council's notice boards.

In the coming year, in addition to routine matters such as running the Burial Ground, planning applications and managing the Public Toilets in Burrington Combe we will respond to many of the Public Consultations that are issued by both National Government and North Somerset Council.

The Council has met seven times during the year and discussed many local issues. Councillors have attended many other meetings during the year, such as the Organising committee of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, the Langford and Churchill Minibus committee, the Parish Councils Airport Association meetings and the Town and Parish Forums, arranged by North Somerset Council about issues that affect the Parish. Time has also been spent in studying planning applications that affect the parish. The council also respond to planning applications that are lodged in neighbouring parishes where traffic and possible flooding issues could affect the Parish of Burrington.

Village Maintenance. The Parish Council has been very aware of the Fly tipping within the Parish and we are reporting all cases as they occur. The rubbish in the Combe has also been a problem, mostly thrown from passing cars however litter picking is problematic in this area as there are no pavements and the council insurances do not cover anyone picking litter on the edge of the road.

Drains and potholes are always an issue for the council and we report after every meeting to North Somerset Highways department of concerns within the village. Areas of concern are the length of the A368, the A38, Lower Langford and the village square with Ham Link. The council is aware that the drainage systems have to be kept working with regular checks and jetting or flooding will cause problems in the future.

Two students have again offered, as a part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, to litter pick and do some clearing of footpaths locally. The council thank them for their voluntary efforts.

The Burial Ground has been mowed and cared to a high standard by Jeff Martin. Pete Marshall our Village orderly trims the hedges and keeps many of the paths and the Bus shelters in the Parish tidy. Pete Marshall also trims the Burrington / Rickford Lane twice a year.

The "Kiss Gate" on the footpath in the Burrington to Rickford Lane has been repaired and replaced so that the larger prams, buggies and wheelchairs can now pass through the lane. The council is planning to repaint in the near future.

Burrington Combe Toilets The Parish Council has been able to manage them effectively, with only a few minor repairs and maintenance issues during the year. The Council is aware of the high volume of use that these facilities have and we are thankful to the groups of outdoor activity providers that support the Council in keeping them open. The council were successful in applying for support from the AONB and the Mendip Society last year. The council have placed a large sign on the toilets with a QR code so that those who have no cash to place in the donations post can support financially later. We are pleased to accept grants because the activity groups had withdrawn all support for 2 years during Covid restrictions. The council are always looking for ways to improve and ways to save costs, however the use of these facilities grows as do all the costs. The Husher family keep the toilets clean and to a high standard. The toilets are the only facilities open in the AONB but sadly we do have some damage and graffiti during the year.

The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. Three Oak trees have been planted, in the Glebe field, close to the School playing field with the necessary tree guards to mark the jubilee and they are listed with the Queen's Green Canopy. The celebrations started on the Thursday evening with a BBQ, the village Beacon and a short firework display. On Sunday there was a short midday Thanksgiving Service in Holy Trinity with a Royal Toast followed by the lunch in the Parish Room and outside in the road. During the weekend many residents and visitors took part in the Treasure Hunt searching for the Crowns. The council thank everyone who was involved with the organisation and for all the effort that was needed to arrange such an event.

King Charles III Coronation. A Service of Thanksgiving is planned on Sunday 7th May in Holy Trinity, with a loyal toast. The council have found it difficult to arrange other celebrations due to there being so many bank holidays and gaining commitment as so many villagers are taking the opportunity to holiday.

Transparency. The Parish Council website is available to all, where minutes and accounts are posted, all in the need to be transparent and open. Notice Boards are still used as we are aware that not all have internet connections.

Village Defibrillators. There are two defibrillators installed within the parish, one in the village square in the old telephone box and one sited on the exterior of the Plume of Feathers at Rickford. These are inspected on a monthly basis to remain operational; we thank Matt Hartley for undertaking this duty and reporting to the Ambulance service.

Churchill and Langford Minibus. The council continue to support the Mini Bus society and encourage residents to use if needed. Full details are available on the website.

Dog Poo. The Parish Council is very concerned about the issue of dog poo and has spent time in talks with the ANOB and others trying to address the situation. The council thanks responsible dog owners but we do worry about the number of poo bags left hanging in trees, we will persevere to find an answer. Signage does not appear to resolve the problem as a few dog owners seem to ignore any responsibility.

The Accounts. The council has increased the precept to £6250. The accounts are at present being audited and will be on display at the Annual meeting and on the website as soon as possible.

Paul Keel, Chairman